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generally imply considerable subsidence, though in places this has been superseded by elevation. A brief description of the physical character and geology of each of the island groups, so far as known, comprises the central part of the paper. A bibliography of the subject is appended.

R. C. M.

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*Geology of the Gold Belt in the James River Basin, Virginia.* By STEPHEN TABER. Virginia Geol. Surv., Bull. No. VII, 1913. Pp. 271, figs. 23, maps 2, pls. 8.

The gold mines are localized mainly in Goochland and Fluvanna counties. Free gold occurs in quartz veins which cut pre-Cambrian quartzites, schists, and gneisses. The gold seems to be associated with granite intrusions, possibly of Cambrian age.

The author suggests that this district illustrates the formation of quartz veins by the force of crystallization. The value of the gold produced in this region amounts to about \$6,000.00 per annum.

T T. Q.

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*Pre-Cambrian Algonkian Algal Flora.* By CHARLES D. WALCOTT. Smithsonian Misc. Coll., LXIV, No. 2, 1914. Pp. 153, pls. 19.

Fossil algal flora, produced by blue-green algae, are found in the Algonkian formations of the Cordilleran region. Walcott describes and figures 8 new genera and 12 new species of algae from the Belt series.

Before the discussion of the algal remains, there is a discussion of the continental conditions and sedimentation of Algonkian times. From Robson Peak, British Columbia, to Arizona and southern California, a distance of over a thousand miles, there is a marked Algonkian-Cambrian unconformity. Preceding this advance of the Cambrian sea, the Algonkian was a time of continental elevation and of largely terrigenous sedimentation in non-marine bodies of water; also there was some sub-aerial deposition. Marine sediments accumulated along the shores of the continents, but they are now far buried, and everywhere lost to our knowledge. This unknown marine life, preceding the Cambrian invasion, belongs to what the author calls "Lipalian" time. Red sandstones and shales in the west suggest an arid and, possibly, a cold climate. The thick limestones in the western interior are explained as having been deposited from non-marine waters by algae.

T. T. Q.